



# R. BARBARA GITENSTEIN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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## A PANDEMIC CAN'T STOP OUR TEACHING

By John T. Oliver, Information Literacy Librarian

The Gitenstein Library has responded to pandemic-era challenges by teaching in creative ways. Prompted in part by TCNJ's shift to remote and flex teaching modes, librarians are using instructional videos to boost learning.

Librarians have long been working to improve student learning related to information skills and concepts, and many of those approaches are well-suited for the remote-only mode that colleges and universities have been using during the pandemic. One noteworthy effort is our increased creation and use of instructional videos--sometimes called "digital learning objects."

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The videos are primarily concerned with teaching a set of skills and knowledge collectively referred to as “information literacy,” which can be defined as the ability to locate, evaluate, and ethically use information for academic research. Information literacy is perhaps better understood as a set of information-related practices, behaviors, and conventions. Information literacy refers only partially to doing searches in library databases. It also refers to the skills of close reading, paraphrasing, interacting with multiple perspectives, and many more.

The library’s instructional videos cover a range of information literacy topics and meet a wide variety of needs. Some resemble an entire class meeting and run for 40 minutes while others address a single concept or skill and are just a few minutes long. Some are designed for students in a specific course, and those videos might even be created collaboratively by librarians and the course instructor. Oftentimes these collaborations involve a “flipped classroom” sequence in which students, for example, use a brief video to complete a library-related assignment in preparation for when a librarian visits the class during its normal meeting time.

Other videos attempt to give information seekers the option to find answers independently and at the point where they most need it. So, librarians created brief videos to answer the questions we are asked most frequently. Topics include how to request a book for curbside pickup; how to use the library’s document delivery service; and a brief video explaining the advantages of library databases and how to access them.

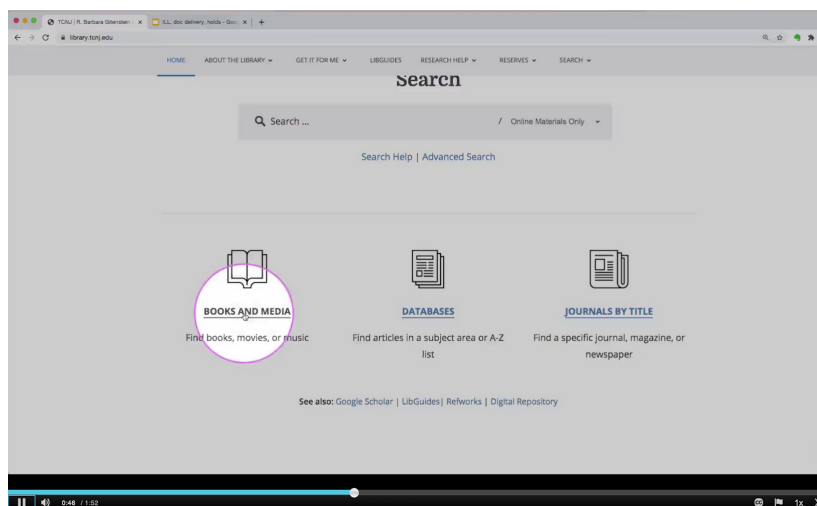


## WHY I TEACH WITH VIDEOS

By John T. Oliver

My drive to record instructional videos started when I needed to teach the exact same topic three times in one day. I was facilitating an hourlong interactive workshop about citation management tools (e.g., RefWorks, Zotero, Mendeley), which are a professional specialty of mine. It’s a workshop I’ve taught thousands of times but when I did it three times in a single day, the inefficiency smacked me in the face. I could see that there might be a huge benefit if I could create some recorded digital version for frequently discussed topics and tools. And while I knew that the in-person interactive workshop mode was effective for the people who were in the room, I could also see that there were clear limits to how many people I could reach that way. In those days I was taking night classes on instructional technology (working on my masters degree at Teachers College at Columbia University), so I had ample opportunity to focus my school projects on creating instructional videos and studying how to design them for maximum learning.

I’ve been hooked ever since. I love the challenge of compressing a learning experience into its briefest possible package. Making effective bite-sized video lessons requires good writing, good teaching, and good design, and that makes for interesting work and endless opportunity for improvement.



*A still image from the Gitenstein Library's video about how to request a book for curbside pickup.*

The instructional video project that has reached the greatest number of students is a long-form lesson for WRI 102, the college's first-year writing-instruction course. (Soon to be renamed First Year Writing starting in fall 2021). In spring 2020, while the impacts of the global pandemic began to unfold, I worked quickly to create something in video format to replace the in-person library visit that is a long-standing component of the WRI 102 course. Structured as a series of short mini-lectures and self-directed learning activities, this video lesson has been used by thousands of students in 34 sections of the course in

spring 2020 and 53 sections in spring 2021. Faculty and student feedback suggests that the learning is similar between the video lesson and in-person sessions offered in previous years.

In its ongoing efforts to improve teaching and increase access to information, Gitenstein Library will continue to create video content and seek innovative approaches. To discuss the integration of library instruction videos into your course, please contact your subject librarian or John Oliver, Information Literacy Librarian.

## LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

### MEET THE MUSIC AND MEDIA LIBRARIAN **Linda Dempf**



*Photo by Robyn Graham Photography.*

You may see Linda Dempf, TCNJ Music and Media Librarian, carrying her French horn across campus or hear her practicing in the library auditorium early in the morning. Linda plays the French horn professionally, and it was her love for music that “tuned” her into librarianship.

As Linda describes, “I became interested in libraries while I was doing my doctorate in music at Indiana University Bloomington. They have an amazing library, and I had a really good Music Bibliography class my first semester. It was a great introduction to all of the library's resources. A few years later, I was writing my thesis on the history of all-women orchestras in the US and was visiting libraries and historical societies for archival research. I saw how librarianship was a perfect combination of my interests in teaching, research and music. I also have a background in Women's Studies. When I took on the role of Subject Librarian for Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at TCNJ, all of my worlds came together.”



Before becoming a librarian, Linda worked as a musician. “I was a freelancer, so there was a lot of variety. I played in Indianapolis with the Opera, Ballet, and Chamber Orchestra, and with traveling Broadway productions and shows that came through the area.” Linda adds, “During graduate school I discovered ‘historically informed performance.’ I began studying the natural horn, which is an early version of the French horn, so it does not have valves. I perform with groups that play these instruments—so, early oboes, clarinets, strings, etc. We are trying to recapture some of the sound and style that performers were using during the 18th and 19th centuries.”

At Gitenstein Library, Linda is the subject specialist for Music, and also for Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). “I teach library instruction for music and WGSS classes, which naturally leads to working with students directly on their research and projects, which I really enjoy. I also select library resources to develop the collections in these areas, so seeing what students and faculty need really helps in building the collections.”

Linda says, “This is a fascinating time to be a librarian. Faculty are really taking advantage of the powerful learning that can happen with different media—particularly film. Not only is the content amazing, but the educational media market changes all the time, with different models of licensing, platforms, and different paths for access, which keeps my work fun and challenging.”

Linda also oversees the Media Access Services department, located on the fourth floor of the library. “We are a circulation point for DVDs, CDs, and media course reserves, including music scores.” states Linda. “Not everything is available for licensing on the educational market—so you might see a film on Netflix, but the library is actually not able to license it for class use, so we still make the DVD available. The media department works closely with all departments in the library, including Access Services, Acquisitions, and Cataloging. I really appreciate collaborating across departments with such dedicated colleagues.” Media Access Services also has listening and viewing stations for DVDs and CDs, and equipment for our valuable, difficult-to-find resources that are on older formats, such as VHS and—wait for it—vinyl records. There are also two group study rooms that are popular, where students gather to watch assigned viewing on large screen televisions, practice group presentations with media, or study together.

During the remote and flex learning during Covid, Media Access Services has been busy meeting the large number of requests for streaming video. According to Linda, “This has been great, because faculty who may not have been aware of our resources, or haven't traditionally used much streaming, are finding out about the library's streaming media resources and are investigating what is available for use in their classes.”

When not playing music or library-ing, Linda enjoys the great outdoors through hiking, camping, skiing, or paddling a canoe. Every summer, she and family head “up north” for a wilderness canoe trip in the Quetico, just north of Minnesota.





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Banking on the Future.

Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn, which ends being a turn in the right direction. Alumna Anandita Mehta, class of 2020 and former Gitenstein Library Media Services student employee, had no idea how taking one course would her academic path at TCNJ. "I took Introduction to Macroeconomics with Professor Michelle Naples. I actually started out as an English major and was exploring the marketing minor. The macroeconomics course was required for the marketing minor. I liked the economics course a lot. I like how economics tells a story and uses visual concepts to explain its meaning. I was learning and growing so much more in the economics field, and I felt like I was better suited to it," explains Anandita.

Now, Anandita is learning all about the nation's banks. In the summer of 2019, she interned at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. After graduation, she was hired into the Federal Reserve's Supervisory Development Program as an Assistant Bank Examiner. She investigates banks operating in the country to ensure that their activities do not do not threaten the safety of financial markets.

Anandita says, "I love the work environment at my current job. It is a very open culture and my employer is very supportive in terms of professional development and work-life balance. I am able to connect a lot of the concepts I learned in my classes at TCNJ to the work I am doing. The economics curriculum at TCNJ was a lot about theories and models, and those do not necessarily show up in the work. But, I am able to see the interrelationships between different markets, and fundamental finance and accounting concepts."

Anandita says that working in Gitenstein Library's Media Services Department prepared her for her current job. "I learned how to speak up when things didn't seem right and take initiative when I noticed something needed to be done. I learned to communicate very clearly and in a timely manner. In my line of work, it is very important to speak up and raise points that seem unusual or strange to the attention of my team and the senior examiners," notes Anandita. "As I am just starting out in my job and especially in the work from home environment, being proactive and taking initiative also helps me establish a rapport with my team and managers. It makes it possible for me to tap into new learning opportunities," she adds.



**Anandita Mehta**

Economics Major

English, Business and Society, Minor

Class of 2020

Media Services Worker

2016-2020

**"LOOKING BACK ON IT, I REALIZED THAT CLASSES AND ACADEMICS ARE JUST A SMALL PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN COLLEGE AND PART-TIME JOBS ARE NOT AS PREVALENT IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT COLLEGE THE WAY OTHER OUT OF THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES SUCH AS CLUBS, SPORTS AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE."**

In addition to working in Media Services, Anandita was quite active at TCNJ, including serving on three honor societies: Omicron Delta Epsilon, Beta Gamma Sigma, and NJCBAA; writing for The Signal; and working as a Research Assistant for The School of Business.

Her strongest piece of advice to TCNJ students is to develop relationships during their time at TCNJ. "I highly encourage student workers at TCNJ to develop relationships with your peers – the other students working with you as well as with your supervisors and the full-time staff in your department. Looking back on it, I realized that classes and academics are just a small part of your experience in college and part-time jobs are not as prevalent in discussions about college the way other out of the classroom experiences such as clubs, sports and social organizations are. Every relationship you develop in college has the potential to grow and last even after you graduate and your on-campus jobs are a part of that as well," emphasizes Anandita.

# LIONS ROAR!

## FOCUS ON STUDENT WORKERS

EACH SEMESTER, R. BARBARA GITENSTEIN LIBRARY EMPLOYS A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENT WORKERS WHO WORK IN ACCESS SERVICES, MEDIA SERVICES, INTERLIBRARY LOANS, LATE NIGHT, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM AND LIBRARY DEAN'S OFFICE. LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ACCESS SERVICES STUDENT WORKER WHO IS WORKING AND TAKING CLASSES DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.

### TYLER COLLINS

SPANISH MAJOR  
MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT, MINOR  
LIBRARY ACCESS SERVICES STUDENT EMPLOYEE  
CLASS OF 2021



#### Interviewer:

Tyler, it is so nice to meet you. What made you decide to come to TCNJ?

**Tyler:** I knew I wanted to come to TCNJ. I took early decision. TCNJ graduates run in my family. My brother is a TCNJ alumnus as are two of my uncles. They were all engineering majors.

**Interviewer:** Are you also an engineering major?

**Tyler:** No. My major is Spanish with a marketing and management minor. At first, my major was Spanish elementary education. I took Spanish courses throughout my high school years, and I thought I wanted to be a teacher. However, I found that my true interest is in the interpretation and translation fields.

**Interviewer:** Wow! What interests you in this field?

**Tyler:** Professor Ann Warner-Ault had taken students into clinics to help translate for Spanish speaking patients. The work seemed interesting. It was something I really wanted to pursue. Plus, I found it very rewarding. I had also taken a Spanish phonetics course with Dr. Regina Morin, and she challenged me in this course. She really pushed me, especially with the medical translations

**Interviewer:** What else do you like about studying Spanish?

**Tyler:** The Spanish program is rigorous. Yet, what is nice about my major is that we (students) are a small group, studying with each other for four full years. It is a cohesive group of students. It's almost like high school all over again. I also spend my time as an Oral Proficiency Leader for oral proficiency Spanish classes. This is essentially the 4th hour. TCNJ students have the opportunity to practice the content of the language classroom lesson and use the language they are learning for communication.

**Interviewer:** Did you have the opportunity to study abroad?

**Tyler:** Yes, I did. I was fortunate to study abroad at Alcalá de Henares in La Comunidad de Madrid. It was an amazing experience. The trip was cut short due to COVID.

**Interviewer:** I am sorry to hear that. How are you handling school during the pandemic? What is getting you through this?

**Tyler:** I am doing well. I found myself using this time of uncertainty to focus on living in the moment. I used this time for self-discovery. What do I want to do? What do I like to do? How do I want to live my life? I concentrated on my mental health. We all need to talk about how we are feeling and how we can support each other. I found that keeping in contact with others helped ease the struggles during this pandemic.

**Interviewer:** Tell us something unique about you?

**Tyler:** I love experiencing different cultures. In addition to enjoying the Spanish culture, I am part of the executive board for JSA (Japanese Student Association), and a member of the Pan-Asian Alliance. I appreciate all different cultures. We learn from these wonderful customs and values which others show us.

**Interviewer:** Congratulations! You graduate this May. What piece of advice would you like to give your TCNJ peers?

**Tyler:** Just try your hardest and connect with a good supportive group of friends on campus who will push you as hard as you can to succeed. Also, engage with TCN professors. Engage with professors; they are here for you to succeed. Let your professors know how grateful you are for their support. They want to know that they are helping you.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Tyler! Congratulations! We are glad that you got to work with us.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## ***Meet Library Media Access Services Supervisor Katy Robinson***

Media Services Supervisor Katy Robinson is no stranger to the library. A TCNJ alum who majored in Communication Studies (Television and Radio Production concentration), Katy has a long history of helping library patrons first as a student worker and then as a staff member. As a TCNJ student, Katy worked in both the library's Access Services and Media Services departments from 1996 until her graduation in 2000. She rejoined the library's Access Services Department in 2005 as a full-time employee and began her career as the Media Services Supervisor in 2011.

Katy is responsible for assisting faculty, staff and students with all of the library's media inquiries. "Here in the library, I really do enjoy the technical area of my job as it balances out the heavy customer service side of things. I enjoy helping people the most. It gives me a great feeling of accomplishment assisting a library user or troubleshooting an issue successfully. I also process and organize media reserve content for professors' canvas accounts so that they have all the materials they need for their classes. It's fascinating to me to see the variety of films and music chosen by professors to be used in their unique educational courses."

Katy's assistance has been even more in demand since the college went to remote and then flex operations due to COVID. "With the pandemic, I have focused more on the technical side of our services with customer service being first and foremost. Our streaming film orders have increased steadily since the move to remote classes last spring due to Covid. I spend a lot of time now processing video files and making titles accessible to the campus community in a streaming format with closed caption capability. This takes time to ensure that the captions and streaming file are accurate. Our Access Services Department has done a tremendous job with providing hard copies of media to faculty, staff and students during this pandemic."

Katy feels as though her job is coming full circle to sharing the similar job responsibilities she undertook in New York City following college graduation. Katy worked her way up in the entertainment industry from office manager to audio/video engineer at a post-production house, recording talented voice actors reading audio books and watching a LOT of South Park on repeat. "I've worked with celebrities such as Kevin Bacon, Amy Poehler, Dave Chapelle, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, and Willem DaFoe. My favorite part of the job was assisting with DVD commentaries voiced by actors and directors, and occasionally witnessing celebrities with no makeup and wearing sweatpants since they knew they wouldn't be on camera. My favorite famous personality to work with was the original Wonder Woman, Lynda Carter. She even signed my Wonder Woman lunch box!" Katy says.

Katy gives back to TCNJ by serving on the TCNJ Alumni Association Board of Directors for which she has done for the past three years. She sits on both the Communications and Social Media committees for the Alumni Association. Katy notes that it has been educational to learn about the inner workings of the college and its network of alumni. She says the organization is extremely supportive of the college's mission and they recently increased their number of Directors in order to represent a variety of different areas of interest and locations.



During her spare time, Katy can be found spending time with her husband, Marc, their two cats, and taking photos. Katy is also a published photographer and visual artist. Katy remarks, "I love a photo with a story, so I use my spare time to take photos of abandoned places and research the backstory to accompany all my images. I've been featured in Adirondack Life Magazine twice and plan to one day publish my own coffee table book of photos accompanied by the history of each forgotten location."



*Katy pictured with actress Lynda Carter in 2004.*

# CONTACT YOUR LIBRARIAN

Librarians can help you throughout your semester! Remember there is more than one way to contact a librarian. You can find Virtual Reference hours on our website at <https://library.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/hours-of-operation/>.

## Text your Question: SMS: (609) 482-3981



Librarians are available during Reference hours.  
Regular text messaging rates apply.

## Submit your Question by E-mail



Librarians will respond during Reference hours.  
For questions submitted after hours, librarians will respond when Reference opens.

## Ask Your Question by Chat



Librarians will respond during chat hours. If chat is unavailable, you may ask your question by email instead.

## Schedule a Virtual Research Consultation



Librarians are available for virtual research consultations and instruction. Check the list of [Librarians by Subject/Major](https://library.tcnj.edu/research-help/contact-a-subject-librarian/) (<https://library.tcnj.edu/research-help/contact-a-subject-librarian/>) for assistance.



**[CLICK HERE TO ASK A LIBRARIAN](#)**



# REGULAR LIBRARY BUILDING HOURS

## Main Library Building

Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM  
Friday 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 AM - 8:00 PM

## Reference Services\*

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## Extended Study Hours\*\*

Sunday-Thursday 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Friday-Saturday CLOSED

**For hours of other services & library special hours, please visit:**

<https://library.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/hours-of-operation/>

\* Virtual services only ([Click here for more information](#)).

\*\* State guidelines currently restrict occupancy to 25 percent of extended area capacity.